

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Abram has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Abram Stuart for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on January 27, 2020, I was unable to vote because I attended the funeral of a close friend.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 23, and YEA on Roll Call No. 24.

HONORING HANEHAN FAMILY DAIRY FOR RECEIVING THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S NEXT GENERATION FARMER AWARD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanehan Family Dairy for receiving the New York State Agricultural Society's Next Generation Farmer Award. The NYS Agricultural Society honors established producers and industry newcomers who are farming in new and vibrant ways with the Next Generation Farmer Award. For NY agriculture to continue to be successful, the next generation of innovative farmers are needed to work the land, plant crops, raise livestock and feed our global population. The Hanehan family has diversified their business to remain competitive, while continuing their tradition and passing their successful business onto the next generation.

Hanehan Family Dairy maintains two farms in Mount Upton and Saratoga Springs. Upon returning from service in World War II, Edward Hanehan purchased the farm next door to the one that he grew up on. Today, his descendants include his three sons, 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Edward's sons, Charlie, Cliff, and Dave, currently run both farms and several of their children are working their way into the family business as partners, carrying on the agricultural tradition. In addition to their core business of dairy, they also breed livestock and grow pumpkins, raising around eight acres at each farm.

Agriculture is an essential component of the economy in Northern New York and Hanehan Family Dairy exemplifies the quality and diversity of North Country farms. On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to congratulate the entire Hanehan family for this well-deserved recognition. I look forward to their future success.

SUPPORTING VETERANS IN STEM CAREERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of S. 153, the "Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act."

It is with the great sacrifice of the men and women, who have served in our armed forces and protected our freedom in mind that I urge members on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor this bill.

We often hear about the many difficulties veterans face while attempting to transition back to civilian life.

From physical and mental trauma to unemployment to the struggles associated with re-familiarizing themselves with civilian life, veterans face many obstacles in life after service.

With respect to employment, nearly one-third of veteran job seekers are underemployed, which is 15.6 percent higher than non-veteran job seekers.

In addition, the Texas Workforce Investment Council reported that in 2017, 35,734 veterans remained unemployed.

In 2019, LinkedIn published its Veteran's Opportunity Report, which stated that veterans who had degrees as well as four or more years of experience were less likely to land the job than less-experienced civilians who applied for the same role.

I am voting in favor of S. 153 because it seeks to address that barrier by encouraging veterans to study and pursue rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering, and math as well as by creating an interagency working group.

This group is tasked with coordinating federal programs for transitioning and training veterans for STEM careers.

By facilitating this process, veterans will be able to have a meaningful career that utilizes their skillsets and secures their livelihood.

In addition, S. 153 will result in filling thousands of open positions and contribute to growing our economy.

Today, STEM careers are growing at an unprecedented rate.

Texas is home to more than three-quarters of a million great STEM jobs.

In fact, Texas is expected to represent nearly 10 percent of future STEM opportunities in the nation.

According to a study by Syracuse University in 2018, Texas possesses the largest percentages of veterans working in the STEM workforce.

At the state-level, 9 percent of veterans work in STEM.

Yet, the report states that 18.66 percent of veterans in Houston are employed in STEM.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have strongly supported veterans.

With that in mind, I authored and introduced the "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act", or the HEROES Act, in previous congresses.

Through my advocacy work with veterans, I have come to understand that one of the

greatest barriers to entry for veterans seeking employment is that civilian employers do not adequately understand how the skills, experience, and training of veterans can contribute in the private sector.

In an effort to address this problem, the HEROES Act creates a Military Skills Translator Database to remove that obstacle and better incorporate veterans into the workforce, especially in fields like STEM.

I strongly believe that we must come together and address the barriers that prevent veterans from re-entering the workforce.

It is imperative that we, the American people, continuously recognize the sacrifices these men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety.

We must take it upon ourselves to try and ease the burdensome transition that thousands of veterans' experience.

And so, I ask all members from both parties to join me in voting to pass S. 153.

HONORING BRADEN TONKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Braden Tonks. Braden is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Braden has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Braden has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Braden has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Braden Tonks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 27, 2020 due to National Guard obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 23, and YEA on Roll Call No. 24.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETRA RUIZ OF COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation about the life and legacy of Petra Ruiz of the Coachella Valley.